

**Developmental Disabilities Council**  
**Policy & Law Committee Minutes**  
**January 23, 2017**  
**Friendly's, Middletown, De.**  
**9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**Members Present: Rick Kosmalski, Chair, Barbara Monaghan, Bill Monaghan, Alvin Emory, Terri Hancharick, Nancy Lemus**

**Staff: Pat Maichle**

**Guests: Carmen Watson, Nicole Johnson**

**I. Position Statements**

1. Review of Current Transportation Statement – The Members reviewed the current statement. It was suggested that we add a recommendation that the training that drivers receive be enhanced to better serve people with disabilities. In addition, more people should have access to “community chairs” to make it easier for families to transport adults with disabilities to enable them to transport in accessible vans. This would also alleviate some of the need for a medical transport via Logisticare which is much more expensive.

In addition, we need to recommend the availability of accessible, affordable taxis in Delaware.

Stop raising the rates for paratransit rides!

- II. Strategic Planning – Review P&L Work to Plan – CHIP – Need additional benefit for children to be able to receive more than one pair of glasses per year. There is a small fee to be paid at the end of the month by families per child. (Nancy will get more details on this issue).
- III. Legislative Update – We talked about the organ transplant bill which is moving in the Legislature (H.B. #20). In addition, we are working with Legislators to introduce a new accessible parking bill for this year. Constituents need to communicate with their own Legislators to voice their concerns with about parking in the community. Rick reported on the ABLE Act and his presentation at the LIFE Conference with updates.

- IV. Jr. Partners in Policymaking 2017 – The Oversight Committee will be meeting at the end of February to review the applications for the June class. The program will be at Delaware State University. All is on target.
- V. Administration Changes – Administrations at both the federal and state level have changed. We need to be aware of the changes at both of these levels. We will be scheduling meetings with our Congressional level in March at the Public Policy Seminar. We also need to schedule a meeting with the new DHSS Secretary and others who are being confirmed to ensure that they know us and to build the relationship.
- VI. Other Business From the Group – Pat shared new research from our Public Policy Manager on the topics of Assisted Suicide and the Organ Transplant. She has done research on the RN delegation and we will develop a one-pager on this issue.

In addition, Nancy talked about the need for health coverage for Tranquilities (adult diapers) to provide good care for people who need these. She's been in contact with the Director of DMMA to discuss this problem.
- VII. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting is scheduled for February 13 at 9:30 at Friendly's in Middletown.
- VIII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned by 11:30 a.m.